

Rosamond Gifford, 87

Philanthropist, taught French

Rosamond Gifford of Boston and Duxbury, a philanthropist, died yesterday in her Boston home. She was 87.

Miss Gifford was born in Boston and raised in Boston and Duxbury.

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Romance languages from Radcliffe College and also studied at the Sorbonne and Institut de Phonétique in Paris.

She worked as a French instructor at Smith College for two years before returning to her Ph.D studies at Radcliffe.

After World War II, Miss Gifford worked for the Friends Service Committee of Philadelphia as head of the French department and later for the Unitarian Service Committee in Paris as manager for post-war clothing distribution.

She was a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum and a board member of the Ladies Committee of New England Medical Center, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and the Fragment Society, a social service organization. She was also a board member and two-term president of the Gibson Society.

She was a member of the Associates of the Ladies Committee at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Colonial Dames, and the Harvard Club and worked on all her Radcliffe reunions. A Boston Symphony Orchestra benefactor, she attended concerts for 50 years.

She had a lifelong interest in the decorative arts, design, and history. She enrolled her Duxbury property, The Sampson Gifford House, in the stewardship program of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

She leaves her cousins, Granton Hall Dowse Jr. of Weston, Charles Francis Dowse II of Denver, and Elizabeth Dowse Reggio of Groton.

A memorial service is being planned for August.